

VZCZCXRO2415
RR RUEHRN
DE RUEHAM #2658 2581109
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 141109Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3515
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0615
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 6068
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 2915
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 3788
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 3973
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1325
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 0203
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 5161
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0678
RUEHRN/USMISSION UN ROME
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC

UNCLAS AMMAN 002658

STATE FOR G/AIAG (WINN), OES, M/MED, NEA/RA (ARVIS)
STATE PASS USAID FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
USDA FOR APHIS
GENEVA FOR WHO REPRESENTATIVE
USUN ROME FOR FAO

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: Health Minister to Attend October 25-26 IPAPI Meeting in
Egypt and AI Update

REF: A. State 92335

[1](#)B. Amman 159

[1](#)C. Amman 69

[1](#)D. 07 Amman 5012

[1](#)E. 07 Amman 1276

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Jordan's Minister of Health, Salah Mawajdeh, is expected to attend the October 25-26 international conference on avian and pandemic influenza hosted by Egypt (Ref A). Assistant Secretary General for Primary Health Care Dr. Adel Belbeisi told ESTHOff that while the details of the Jordanian delegation have yet to be finalized, the Minister's office is planning for his participation.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Jordan has not reported any new cases of avian influenza (AI) since March 2006. Jordan currently has Tamiflu stockpiles for 300,000 people. Belbeisi reported the 2009 budget allocated two million dinars (\$2.8 million) for bolstering pandemic flu preparedness through stockpiling Tamiflu, purchasing additional personal protective equipment, and training technical staff. While Belbeisi shared concerns about a human pandemic, he was not overtly concerned about the human health implications of AI, noting, "it won't affect the health of the country as much as the economy."

[1](#)3. (U) Jordan has continued to participate in regional preparedness exercises through the Middle East Consortium of Infectious Diseases (MECID). The first table-top exercise for pandemic flu was held in January 2008 (ref B). Belbeisi recently participated in a September 1-4, MECID organized regional table top exercise in Istanbul for 24 Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli health officials. The table-top scenario involved a pandemic in Egypt spreading to Jericho, Jerusalem, and Amman and covered topics related to border movements, communications, and sharing of medical equipment. Additional regional tabletop exercises are likely to be scheduled in 2008.

Visit Amman's Classified Website at:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/amman>

BEECROFT